

Appn No. 09/942,601
Amdt. Dated October 12, 2004
Response to Office action of August 11, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The objections and submissions made by the Examiner in the Office Action have carefully been considered and it is submitted that distinguishing features are present in the invention and now are brought out in the amended claims.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has maintained his objection to claims 1 to 6 and claim 8 on the basis of them being obvious to a skilled addressee in light of the disclosure in Bobry (US 6,229,565). The Examiner has also maintained his objection to claim 7, as being unpatentable over Bobry in view of Hawkins (6,154,254), and claim 9, as being unpatentable over Bobry in view of Kokubo (6,007,195). The Applicant contests the Examiner's conclusions. However, in the interest of an expeditious prosecution of the application, the Applicant has limited claim 1 to the specific ink supply arrangement used.

The present invention relates to a compact device for recording and printing images. In this context, the ink supply arrangement in the apparatus is a novel feature that is relevant to the function of the entire printing unit and is particularly important for the compactness of the overall structure. The particular ink distribution arrangement is described in the second full paragraph on page 4 of the present specification, as well as in the US Patent Application No. 09/922,105, which is incorporated in the specification by reference.

Whilst substantially narrowing the scope of the Applicant's independent claim, the introduced feature is not disclosed in Bobry or any of the other two cited documents. Neither of these documents includes any incentive for development of such an ink distributing structure either. Correspondingly, it is submitted that an ordinary worker in this field, apprised of the cited documents, would not have derived this specific feature as a matter of straightforward routine. Thus, claim 1 clearly possesses the requisite novelty and inventive step to qualify for patentability. Consequently, claims 2 to 9 are also novel and non-obvious, by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the

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application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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